



**FRIENDS OF THE
NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE ORCHESTRA
ORCHESTRA**

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



ALEXANDER SHELLEY
HONORARY PATRON

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
- 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- EMBASSY CONCERTS
- MUSIC TO DINE FOR
- DIPLOMATIC LIAISON
- MUSIC LIAISON
- MEMBERSHIP SERVICES
- FINANCIAL REPORT 2023-2024

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the National Arts Centre Orchestra,

It is hard to believe that we are in our 55th year. So much has happened since 1969 both musically, politically and personally! If you joined us in 1969 or 1970, please let us know as we would like to honour you especially for your support and dedication to the Friends for all these years.

On behalf of the Board of FNACO I wish to thank **all** of you most sincerely for your continued renewal of membership and your very generous extra donations.



My sincere thanks to all the Directors of the Board of FNACO. We work well as a team and support each other bringing different skills to the positions for which they choose to volunteer. Madeleine Aubrey, 1st Vice-President and Membership director; Melina Vacca-Pugsley, 2nd Vice-President and Embassy Concerts director; Kathleen McKillop our Secretary; Sally Boucher our Treasurer; Carol Lutes-Racine, Diplomatic Liaison director; Colonel-Maître Michel Drapeau our Legal advisor; Suzanne Gumpert, Music to Dine For director; and our thanks to Julie Ann Brown who is stepping down as Communications director.

Our non-directors but great volunteers working away in the background are: Gisele Lamontagne, our translator; Jim Burgess and Juan Molina, our IT specialists; Stephen McCarthy who looks after the free rehearsals; and Stephen Boucher our new Con Brio typesetter and great assistant to me. Thanks also to our representatives: Charles 'Chip' Hamann, NAC Orchestra, and Rich Coburn, NAC Music Department.

Our newsletter Con Brio continues with event articles, stories from musicians and concert comments and thank you notes. My thanks to all who agreed to take the time to contribute articles.

Please read the reports and you will see where your money goes. It always amazes me that for such a small organization we can support so many music groups and individuals within the Ottawa area. They are our future professional musicians and who hopefully will eventually join our NAC orchestra or one like ours.

Thank you very much,

Christine McLaughlin
President, Friends of the National Arts Centre Orchestra

FNACO MANDATE

Founded at the same time as the NAC Orchestra in 1969, Friends have been connecting music and people ever since. Our goal is to enjoy music while financially supporting young talented musicians and creating opportunities for the younger generation to enjoy orchestral music.

With your membership you also have the opportunity to attend selected free rehearsals and our fund-raising Embassy concerts and dinners at a reduced price.

Please ask your friends to consider joining us today by becoming a member – remember that a FNACO membership is tax deductible.

Potential members interested in joining can email: Membership@FriendsOfNACO.ca.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS / CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION 2023-2024

Executive / Exécutif

President / Présidente

Christine McLaughlin

First Vice-President / Première vice-présidente

Madeleine Aubrey

Second Vice-President / Deuxième vice-présidente

Melina Vacca- Pugsley

Treasurer / Trésorière

Sally Boucher

Secretary / Secrétaire

Kathleen McKillop

Directors /Directeurs /Directrices

Music Liaison/ Prix / Liaison musique

Christine McLaughlin

Diplomatic Liaison / Liaisons diplomatiques

Carol Lutes Racine

**Embassy Concerts / Concerts
d'Ambassades**

Melina Vacca- Pugsley

Legal / Juridique

Colonel-Maître® Michel W. Drapeau

Membership / Adhésions

Madeleine Aubrey

Music to Dine For/ Gourmandises musicales

Suzanne Gumpert

Communications

Julie Anne Brown

EMBASSY CONCERTS

The 2023-2024 FNACO season began at the residence of the Spanish Ambassador on August 1, 2023. His Excellency Alfredo Martinez Serrano hosted sixty of our members for a memorable evening featuring NACO associate concert master Jessica Linnebach, Paul Casey and Karen Kang who performed works by composers Nathan Johnson, Ruperto Chapi and Claude Debussy. Guitarist Nathan Bredeson ended the musical component with works by Sebastian Bach, Joaquin Rodrigo and Francisco Tarrega. The guests then moved outside to the lantern lit garden to enjoy three types of paella and other delicious Spanish delicacies.



The New Year 2024 saw the Friends of NACO enjoying hospitality at the residence of the Colombian Ambassador, His Excellency Carlos A. Morales. On January 30, 2024, forty guests took refuge from the winter night to enjoy some modern pieces and a medley of Latin American compositions in a two-part repertoire provided by the string quartet Canto Sentimento, (Gabriela Ruiz, Adam Nelson, Oleg Chelpanov, Ryan Vis) and guitarist Nathan Bredeson. As always, the evening ended with good food, good wine and joyous company.

On April 25, 2024, FNACO had an opportunity to hear the music of a composer not widely known to many. Fifty FNACO members enjoyed the hospitality of the Slovakian Ambassador, Her Excellency Viera Grigová and the music of one of Slovakia's most important composers Eugen Suchoň. Bela Bartok and Claude Debussy were also featured in the repertoire presented by pianist Roger Feria Jr. and NACO violinist Emily Westell.



The season ended with a concert at the embassy of the Republic of Korea. For the first time, fifty guests were welcomed by His Excellency Lim Woong Soon to enjoy a special evening of Korean cuisine preceded by a concert featuring guest musician Sosun Suh. Miss Suh captivated the guests with the Haegeum, a two-string instrument much like a vertical fiddle. Joining her were the Moss trio, musicians Paul Casey, Erica Miller and Karen Kang who performed works by Ernst von Dohnanyi and George Enescu.

Melina Vacca-Pugsley
Director, Embassy Concerts

MUSIC TO DINE FOR

The Music to Dine For (MTDF) program returned to FNACO eliciting tremendous interest from our membership. The chair has the responsibility of arranging dinners with musical interludes of 20-30 minutes at various embassies in Ottawa. The proceeds from these events fund programs for Ottawa music students. These dinners also give young musicians the opportunity to perform before an appreciative audience. Embassies are invited to participate by hosting the event.



His Excellency Fahad Saeed Al Raqbani approached us about reviving this event by hosting a delightful dinner for 48 FNACO members at the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in November 2023. It was a very successful event with four high school and university students playing string instruments.



Then in June 2024, Her Excellency Vass Salazar graciously hosted 12 FNACO members to a dinner at the Embassy of Hungary with a University of Ottawa Masters student pianist entertaining the guests.

FNACO's Board of Directors will work diligently to get the interest of embassies to participate in the next year as there are so many young musicians willing to perform.

The above events are always very popular and demand remains high for attendance.

Suzanne Gumpert
Director, Music to Dine For

DIPLOMATIC LIAISON

The long-standing tradition of collaboration with Ottawa's diplomatic community in support of the Friends of the NAC Orchestra's mission was particularly noteworthy during fiscal year 2023-24.



Vibrant embassy chamber music concerts, receptions and formal dinner fund-raising events under the distinguished patronage of the Ambassadors of Spain, United Arab Emirates, Colombia, the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Korea and Hungary memorably highlighted FNACO's diplomatic outreach and networking initiatives during the fiscal year-- cultural diplomacy at its finest in support of funding music education programs for tomorrow's aspiring young musicians.

Cultural diplomacy remains the cornerstone of our special events program planning going forward in our 55th anniversary year.



Carol Lutes Racine
Director, Diplomatic Liaison

MUSIC LIAISON

Your generous donations enabled FNACO to support all our commitments this fiscal year.

NAC ORCHESTRA BURSARY COMPETITION This annual event is under the direction of a committee of NACO musicians. Since 1993 Friends have sponsored one of the prizes (\$3,500). In 2019 we added a new award for \$2,000. The finals were held at Freiman Hall, Ottawa U and were well attended and we heard some excellent young brass and woodwind musicians. This competition is for students between 16 and 26 and have a connection with the National Capital Region. The **winners for 2024** are: Friends of the NAC Orchestra James Morton prize: **Nadia Ingalls** (bassoon) and for the Friends of NACO Evelyn Greenberg award: **Dylan Pinette** (English horn). Nadia is continuing her studies at the Manhattan School of Music and Dylan at McGill Schulich School of Music.

KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL Friends have contributed to the prizes at this Ottawa festival since 1988. This year the winner of the FNACO senior scholarship was **Abeel Andari** (oboe); FNACO John Gazsi Memorial prize: **Philippe Lafleur** (violin); and FNACO performance award: **Gabriel Carty** (tuba).

UNIVERSITY AWARD Awards go to a fourth-year outstanding student graduating from the BA in Music and who has demonstrated an active interest in community engagement. **Spring 2024** award – Carleton University: **Johnny Kennedy** (composer and singer).

Our donations to Ottawa music organizations:

ORKIDSTRA - (\$1,000) This organization gives children in under-served parts of the city an opportunity to learn and perform instrumental and choral music as part of a social development initiative. The programme is very successful and enjoys the support of leading figures in the musical community.

YOUNG STRING PERFORMERS FOUNDATION - (\$1,000) This organization helps develop the potential of young musicians in the National Capital Region. Friends has had a long association with Y.S.P.F. and is often a source of talented musicians for our fundraising events.

OTTAWA YOUTH ORCHESTRA ACADEMY – (\$1,000) The academy, founded by John Gomez, provides training in orchestral and ensemble playing for hundreds of young musicians.

MULTICULTURAL ARTS for SCHOOLS and COMMUNITIES (MASC) – (\$1,000). This is an Ottawa organization that brings arts and culture alive for over 150,000 children, youth and seniors every year.

NAC COMMUNITY OUTREACH -(\$20,500) Friends continue to provide financial support to the educational side of the NAC Music Department, including the Mentorship programme. We also support a concert, identified by the Music department, where extra musicians are required for the programme. Entitled the Kilpatrick Concert, our contribution was \$5,000.

On behalf of you, our members, we aim to continue these awards and donations in 2023/24.

Christine McLaughlin
Director, Music Liaison

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

AUGUST 1, 2023 - JULY 31, 2024

The past year saw a **9% increase** in our membership. Our total membership at the end of the 2023-2024 fiscal year is 255 voting members consisting of:

- 52 individual members
- 202 senior members
- 1 student

We also have non-voting members:

- 17 Honorary members (3 of which are still active voting members) and our honorary patron Alexander Shelley
- all orchestra musicians and officials of the Music department are considered non-paying members.

During this fiscal year, 23 members did not renew their memberships. However, 55 new members joined our organization this year and many have done so using our website online membership application function.

Membership dues collected for the year were \$7,610. We thank our members who renewed their memberships and we welcome our new members.

Members often send a donation along with their renewal fees. Thank you for your extra generous donations that totaled: \$1,745.

Your generous contributions and support are greatly appreciated. They have helped our association meet our mission and commitment to our NAC orchestra and its musicians, as well as to all young aspiring musicians through our awards and scholarships.

Comments from members on ways of improving your membership experience are always welcomed. Member input is key in continuing to make FNACO stronger and vibrant. Members interested in providing feedback can email: membership@friendsofnaco.ca.

Madeleine Aubrey
Director, Membership Services

**Friends of the National Arts Centre Orchestra
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT TO MEMBERS
Year ending July 31, 2024**

This is my second year serving as Treasurer of Friends of the National Arts Centre Orchestra and I continue to be in awe of this wonderful organization that through the generous contributions of its membership is able to support the NAC Orchestra and further the education of young musicians.

Our Financial Report demonstrates another successful fundraising year, back to pre-COVID levels. Friends has contributed all the financial support it committed to for the fiscal year including a new contribution to Multicultural Arts for Schools and Communities (MASC).

Investments, including the James W. Morton Fund, the William B. Kilpatrick Fund and the Friends' Anniversary Fund, continue to be invested conservatively under the direction of an independent investment advisor, in index-linked callable coupon notes that provide a steady source of income from interest earned.

Thank you to all our members for your support, commitment and for making Friends' support of community programs for youth and music education possible.

Sally Boucher, FCPA, FCGA
Treasurer